

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A chuck for use with a manual or powered driver having a rotatable drive shaft, said  
2 chuck comprising:
  - 3 a. a generally cylindrical body member having
    - 4 (i) a nose section having an axial bore formed therein, and
    - 5 (ii) a tail section configured to rotate with the drive shaft of the driver;
  - 6 b. a plurality of jaws slidably disposed within said body in communication with said  
7 nose section axial bore;
  - 8 c. a nut disposed rotatably about but axially fixed to said body and in driving  
9 engagement with said jaws so that rotation of said nut with respect to said body  
10 drives said jaws into and out of said nose section axial bore;
  - 11 d. a bearing disposed between said body and said nut; and
  - 12 e. a rust resistant nosepiece secured to said body nose section, said nosepiece  
13 having a generally cylindrical sidewall and an end wall extending radially  
14 inward therefrom.
- 1 2. The chuck as in claim 1, wherein said nut is a split-nut formed in two halves.
- 1 3. The chuck as in claim 2, wherein said split nut is received in a groove formed in said  
2 body intermediate said nose section and said tail section.
- 1 4. The chuck as in claim 1, further comprising a nut retaining member axially fixed on said  
2 body for preventing movement of said nut toward said nose section of said body member,  
3 said nut retainer member having a first portion defining a first radius and a second  
4 portion defining a second radius that is larger than said first radius.
- 1 5. The chuck as in claim 1, said bearing further including an inner race, an outer race and  
2 bearing balls maintained therebetween.
- 1 6. The chuck as in claim 5, said bearing further including a shroud that secures said inner  
2 and outer race together.
- 1 7. The chuck as in claim 4, wherein said nut retaining member first portion is generally  
2 cylindrical in shape.
- 1 8. The chuck as in claim 4, wherein said nut retaining member second portion is  
2 frustoconical in shape.

- 1 9. The chuck as in claim 1, further including a first sleeve received intermediate said nut  
2 and said rust resistant nose piece, wherein said rust resistant nosepiece axially retains said  
3 first sleeve in driving engagement with said nut.
- 1 10. The chuck as in claim 9, wherein said nut rotates in conjunction with said first sleeve.
- 1 11. The chuck as in claim 9, further comprising a second sleeve located axially rearward of  
2 said first sleeve, rotationally fixed to said tail section of said body, and extending axially  
3 forward and surrounding a portion of said body.